

OLC 76-1266

22 April 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Chairman Lucien Nedzi, House  
Armed Services Committee

1. In a meeting with Chairman Lucien Nedzi this morning, I brought him up to date on the Director's appearance before the House Appropriations Committee [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I also discussed the situation with respect to the establishment of an intelligence oversight committee in the Senate. We talked about the various alternatives.

2. Chairman Nedzi is of the opinion that there is no way to eliminate the jurisdiction of such Committees as Armed Services, Foreign Relations, International Relations, Judiciary, etc., of intelligence agencies that have been previously under their jurisdiction. I mentioned the possibility of a permanent Subcommittee of Armed Services with "reserve seats" and at-large membership and Mr. Nedzi feels there is little chance that this solution will be adopted although he was unaware of the fact that senior members of the Senate Authorizing Committees are ex-officio members of the corresponding Subcommittees of Senate Appropriations.

3. On the subject of the "second deputy legislation," Mr. Nedzi expressed the same position taken by Senator John Stennis (D., Miss.) on this matter, namely, that this year wasn't the time to go to the floor of the Congress with an amendment to the National Security Act since it would make it easy for members who are inclined to do so to attach additional restrictive amendments to such a bill. Furthermore, he sees no advantage in elevating the position to one requiring

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Presidential appointment except for the prestige involved. I told the Chairman I thought there were other considerations; the most important of which probably was that elevating the position to Presidential appointee status had the benefit of giving additional weight to that position within the Intelligence Community, further eliminating the feeling in other elements of the Community that the incumbent of the position was an "Agency man."

4. I also mentioned that

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The Chairman said that this was a matter that should be taken up with Frank Slatinshek or Bill Hogan, of the staff. (Mr. Nedzi is working during the current recess in an effort to try to catch up on his work and was not anxious to take on any new issues at this time.)

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GEORGE L. CARY  
Legislative Counsel

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